

REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11, 15-19, 21, 23, 25, 27-32 have been amended for clarification. New claims 36 and 37 have been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-5 and 7-37 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO DRAWING:

In item 4 of the outstanding Office action, the drawing correction filed on October 23, 2003 was disapproved because corrections to the same were not shown or highlighted. A replacement sheet to replace FIG. 1 is attached herewith showing changes in red ink. Thus, approval of changes to FIG. 1 is earnestly solicited.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In item 8 of the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-5, and 7-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,085,219 ('219) and U.S. Patent No. 6,473,796 ('796).

'219 discusses a system and method of linking user preference data gathered from a user with a predetermined template to easily create home pages.

'796 discusses an image processing system of a client/server environment where the server, controlled by a user, provides the user with video data upon the user's access to a home page of a host having a camera server.

The present invention discloses a search method and system that provides detailed information of search results, using which a user views contents of the search results without accessing each search result.

The Examiner compares the '219 home page creating system with the information providing server of the present invention. The client terminals of the '219 system that receive service from the server (see, column 4, lines 5-8 of '219) enter basic data such as the respective users' names, sexes, ages, etc. to the service provider (see, column 4, lines 28-31 of '219). The '219 system gathers this data from the users to automatically create a home page by pasting the user data to a predetermined template (see, abstract, column 1, lines 21-44, column 5, lines 52-56 of '219). This means that the '219 system does not conduct a search, instead, takes input from the user and pastes the input data onto a predefined template to create a home page for the user.

The information providing system of the present invention provides data to a client

"according to a search request from the client" (see, claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, and page 11, lines 12-19 of the present invention). This means that while the '219 system brings about a new home page based on the user's input data, the present invention conducts a search in an effort to find data based on the search request from the client.

Further, the information providing system of the present invention maintains respective "index image which displays contents of a home page" stored in the information providing server (see, amended claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, and FIG. 3 of the present invention). The index image provides a sketch of the contents of the home pages to allow the user to easily view the results of the search, and determine whether desired information is contained in the home pages without having to unnecessarily access each home page resulting from the search (see, FIG. 6 of the present invention). This is unlike the '219 system, which is solely based on initially collected user preference data (see, column 6, lines 7-13 of '219). Thus, the '219 system fails to teach or suggest the index image disclosed in the present invention, which is provided based on varying user input (search request) and displays latest contents of the respective home page.

The Examiner acknowledges that '219 does not disclose an index image included in search results, thus relies on '796 as providing the same. Unlike the system of the present invention that allows a user to search for a home page, the '796 system requires the user to have prior knowledge of the location of a host having the camera server (see, column 3, lines 51-57 of '796) so that the camera server provides the user video data. Thus, the '796 system fails to teach or suggest a system that allows a user to view information on a server by providing the user with detailed content of a search result, including an index image data showing contents of the home page.

The user is able to view detailed information in relation to a home page resulting from a search without accessing the home page (see, page 2, lines 16-25 of the present invention). Thus, more than character information in relation to the home page is provided to the user (see, page 1, lines 16-20 of the present invention). Accordingly, the user is not provided with numerous pages of search results that the user has to scan through to find the desired home page (see, page 2, lines 26-28 of the present invention), and the burden put on the user to search through a list of home page addresses to find a desired home page is eliminated as the user is provided with detailed information including an image index in relation to the web page.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32 are patentably distinguishable over '219 and '796. For

example, as recited in claim 12, the index image creating section "respectively creates an index image" corresponding to each file received. Neither '219 nor '796 teach or suggest creating an index image when new files are received.

The burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness based upon the prior art lies with the Examiner. In re Fritch, 23 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992). According to In re Fritch, the Examiner "... can satisfy this burden only by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references." Since neither '219 nor '796 disclose an information server providing detailed information of search results to facilitate the user's search, the system of '219 and '796 discussing easy creation of a home page and access to an image capture via a camera server, respectively, do not suggest or teach the system as disclosed by the present invention.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 36 has been added to emphasize that the information providing server of the present invention "periodically" generates and stores "an image index displaying contents of a respective home page" to display the same "based on a search request". This allows a user to easily review search results by reviewing the detailed contents of the resulting home pages without unnecessarily accessing each home page resulting from the search.

Further, new claim 37 has been added to highlight an aspect of the present invention where "... an image index is generated upon receiving the search request.." instead of being periodically generated.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11, 15-19, 21, 23, 25, 27-32 have been amended for clarification, and new claims 36 and 37 have been added. Claims 1-5 and 7-37 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: April 15, 2004

By: 
Gene M. Garner II
Registration No. 34,172

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501



ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 1

